Nobuhiro ITOH, S.N. 10/054,147   Dkt. 2271/66652
Page 6

REMARKS

Applican sincerely thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to the undersigned in the December 3, 2007 telephone interview.

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 8, 2007. Claims 1-12, 14 and 15 are pending in this application, with claim 13 having previously been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By the present Amendment, claims 4 and 8 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1-3 and 5-7 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter, without narrowing a scope of the claims, and method claim 5 has been amended to track the language of apparatus claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-12, 14 and 15 are now pending, with claims 1 and 5 being in independent form.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,465,163 to Yoshihara et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,223,181 to Goldberg et al Claims 5-12, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Yoshihara in view of Goldberg et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,148,118 to Murakami et al.

As discussed in the December 3, 2007 telephone interview with the Examiner, the primary reference Yoshihara, alone or in combination with the other references, does not render obvious the claimed subject matter of the present application relating to operations of a facsimile device which can handle a large-sized (that is, larger than A3-size) subject copy. As discussed, facsimile communication protocols require facsimile data to be A3-size width transmittable.

Conventional apparatuses (such as proposed in Yoshihara and Murikami) typically require the operator to scan the large-size subject copy as a plurality of A3-sized copies (because the scanner is only capable of scanning areas of approximately A3-size) and specify that the

multiple copies must be composed into a large image.

Yoshihara points out this problem at column 1, lines 13-26 (reproduced below):

> Copiers have been known in which an image of an original is read, and the read image is recorded on paper or the like. In such a conventional copier, when it is desired to obtain an output image of an image of an original having a size so large that a reading unit of the copier cannot read the image in a single reading operation, the image of the original is, for example, divided into four portions, the respective portions are read, the read images are individually recorded, and the operator connects four recorded images to provide one image.
>
> However, this approach has the *problem that the operator must paste a plurality of recorded images in order to connect them, and the operation of pasting images is troublesome.*

Thus, Yoshihara is concerned with the problem of putting the image portions back together. More specifically, Yoshihara (col. 6, lines 14-24) proposes that the image portions are reduced and then synthesized into one image of an A3-size.

On the other hand, the approach proposed by Yoshihara, like its background, requires the operator to manually split scanning of a large-sized document into multiple (for example, four) portions, when the original cannot be scanned in a single scanning operation. Yoshihara, column 5, lines 30-54, describes the manual operation as follows:

> FIG. 5 is a flowchart showing the operation in the large-size original mode in the first embodiment. FIG. 6(1) is a diagram showing an *image of an original larger than an original which can be read by the image reading unit 20 in a single reading operation.*
>
> In the following explanation, it is assumed that one image original is divided and is read in four reading operations. The *operator sets the number "4" of reading operations by a key input from the operation unit 10 (step S1), and sets an image area slightly larger than 1/4 of the original on the original mount glass 22. If the CPU 50 determines that the <u>read key has been depressed</u>* (step S2), the image area of the original set on the original mount glass 22 is read by the image reading unit 20 (step S3), and the read image is stored in the bit-map memory 341 (step S4). *The same processing is performed for the remaining 3/4 image areas* (steps S2, S3, S4 and S5). At that time, read images of the remaining image areas are stored in the bit-map memories 341a, 341b and 341c. When the operator sets an image area slightly larger than 1/4 of the image original on the original mount glass 22, the operator must

Nobuhiro ITOH, S.N. 10/054,147   Dkt. 2271/66652
Page 8

set the image area so that surrounding portions of the set image area overlap other image areas. FIGS. 6(2), 6(3), 6(4) and 6(5) illustrate a specific example of read images stored in the bit-map memories 341, 341a, 341b and 341c.

Thus, the operator must enter the number of portions into which the large-sized document is being split (by the operator), and for each portion, orient the document so that the portion can be scanned and then depress the read button.

In contrast, in the claimed subject matter of the present application, the large-sized subject copy is scanned, as a single image, to generate large-sized copy image data, and then the large-sized copy image data (and not the large-sized document) is automatically divided in a sub-scanning direction into a plurality of read areas according to a specified overlapping width, with each read area including divisional lines of data having a predetermined width. Each of independent claims 1 and 5 has been amended to more clearly addresses these features (that is, the scanning generates large-sized copy image data, and it is the large-sized copy image data, and not the document, that is divided).

For example, Yoshihara, column 5, lines 35-40, states as follows:

In the following explanation, it is assumed that one image original is divided and is read in four reading operations. *The operator sets the number "4" of reading operations by a key input from the operation unit 10 (step S1), and sets an image area slightly larger than 1/4 of the original on the original mount glass 22.* If the CPU 50 determines that the read key has been depressed (step S2), the image area of the original set on the original mount glass 22 is read by the image reading unit 20 (step S3), and the read image is stored in the bit-map memory 341 (step S4). *The same processing is performed for the remaining 3/4 image areas (steps S2, S3, S4 and S5).* At that time, read images of the remaining image areas are stored in the bit-map memories 341a, 341b and 341c. *When the operator sets an image area slightly larger than 1/4 of the image original on the original mount glass 22, the operator must set the image area so that surrounding portions of the set image area overlap other image areas.* FIGS. 6(2), 6(3), 6(4) and 6(5) illustrate a specific example of read images stored in the bit-map memories 341, 341a, 341b and 341c.

Thus, in the approach proposed by Yoshihara, the user must decide the number of image

portions into which the large-sized image is to be split, and must carefully position the original large-sized image manually for reading of each image portion.

Yoshihara simply does not teach or suggest a facsimile device which scans the large size subject copy and generates image data of the large-size subject copy as a single image, and then automatically divides the image data in a sub-scanning direction into a plurality of read areas according to a specified overlapping width, if the size of the subject copy is larger than the A3-size.

Goldberg and Murakami, as previously discussed in the record, like Yoshihara, do not disclose or suggest scanning a large-sized subject copy having a size larger than a A3-size and generating large-sized image data based on the scanning of the large-sized subject copy, and automatically dividing the large-sized image data in a sub-scanning direction into a plurality of read areas according to a specified overlapping width, as provided by the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application.

Therefore, the combination of Yoshihara, Goldberg and Murakami does not render the claim 1 of the present application unpatentable.

Independent claim 5 is patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 5 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit

Nobuhiro ITOH, S.N. 10/054,147   Dkt. 2271/66652
Page 10

Account No. 03-3125.

    If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner

is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

                Respectfully submitted,

                PAUL. TENG, Reg. No. 40,837
                Attorney for Applicant
                Cooper & Dunham LLP
                Tel. (212) 278-0400